

CalAERO

DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

April 2009

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Did you know...

- California has 249 Public Use Airports
- In California, there are 63,843 certified active pilots (11.4 percent of U.S. total) - 2008
- Aviation's contribution to the State Gross Domestic Product is \$111 billion (9 percent)
- Aviation's contribution to the State employee workforce is 1.7 million jobs (9 percent)



Welcome Our New Division Chief

Gary Cathey has 23 years of State service. He began his career with Caltrans in 1985 as a Junior Civil Engineer in District 10. Two years later he transferred to Central Design and in 1996 he

transferred to the Division of Aeronautics where he successfully completed a Training and Development assignment and was reclassified as an Associate Aviation Consultant. In 2001, he was promoted to Senior Aviation Consultant and was appointed to be the Chief, Office of Airports.

Gary has an extensive technical knowledge of aviation, possesses an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate with Instrument Rating in single and multi-engine aircraft, as well as having a broad range of experience working with Departmental policies and procedures, and State and federal aviation related laws, rules and regulations. As a Lieutenant

Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he is assigned to a Civil Engineer unit in Southern California. Gary brings this expertise and a passion for innovation and customer service to the Chief's position.

Gary graduated with a Masters degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology.

Please welcome Gary to his new appointment and support his efforts to promote Aeronautics' role in California's mobility future.

Runway Safety Areas

Our office is currently placing special emphasis on identifying airports that have inadequate Runway Safety Areas (RSA's). An RSA is integral to the runway

environment. RSA dimensional criteria are established in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5300-13, *Airport Design*, Chapter 3, and are based on the Airport Reference Code.

(Continued on page 2.)



Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Matching Grants

State funds are available for AIP Matching Grants. Once you receive an FAA grant, apply immediately for the matching grant. See www.dot.ca.gov/aeronautics for information and forms. Click on the Grants and Loans tab. The State match rate is 2.5 percent of the FAA grant. Average processing time is 2-weeks or less. Questions? Call or E-mail Gwyn Reese at (916) 654-4718 or gwyn.reese@dot.ca.gov

Runway Safety Areas

(Continued from page 1)

The Runway Safety Area (RSA) is intended to provide an extra measure of safety for off-runway excursions from blown tires, excessive crosswinds, or other types of aircraft control problems. They should be:

- (a) Cleared and graded
- (b) Drained by appropriate landscaping
- (c) Capable (under dry conditions) of supporting appropriate types of equipment and aircraft
- (d) Object-free to the extent possible

The California Code of Regulations states in part that RSA's are required to obtain an airport permit. FAA Order 5200.8, dated October 1, 1999, states: "All RSA's at federally obligated airports and all RSA's at airports certificated under 14 CFR, Part 139 shall conform to the standards contained in AC 150/5300-13, to the extent practicable."

Appendix 2 of the AC provides a list of alternatives to be considered when the Design Guide standards are not achievable. These include:

- (a) Relocation, shifting, or realignment of the runway
- (b) Reduction in runway length
- (c) A combination of runway relocation, shifting, grading, realignment, or reduction
- (d) Declared Distances
- (e) Engineered Materials Arresting Systems (EMAS)

California's General Aviation Airports: Links To Vitality

Connecting communities to the world, airports are economic magnets providing revenue, services and opportunities. Airports boost quality of life and, in disasters, may be the only means of transporting people and goods. Still, the threat of airport operations reductions and closures is real. Without consideration

of long-term effects of zoning and permitting decisions, airports are being surrounded by incompatible land uses. This video shows what several California communities are doing to improve land use planning around airports so their airports remain sustainable. It has been widely distributed to Caltrans Districts and Divisions, Airport Land Use Commissions, Regional Transportation Agencies,

Chambers of Commerce, Mayors, County Supervisors and Planning Commissions where airports are located. In addition, it has been shared with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Business Aviation Association, the National Association of State Aviation Officials. View the video now at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/oairportVitality.html>

Copies are available for \$8.

2008 Air Cargo and Passenger Activity

- Air Cargo activity decreased 11 percent from 4,526,516 U.S. Tons (2007) to 4,027,321 U.S. Tons (2008).
- Air Passengers handled through California airports decreased 4.5 percent from 183,566,357 (2007) to 175,271,828 (2008).

For more air cargo and passenger statistics, visit our website:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/paxstats.html>

Admirable Achievements

Mr. Ken Babione, Lead Airport Technician for the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport in Bishop, CA, has implemented ways to "go green" technology all on his own. "When I took over as Lead Technician, I looked for ways we could save money, conserve energy and at the same time protect the environment." The following are ways that the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport improved the environment and energy saving measures:

- Airport bicycles instead of airport trucks.
- Recycle cans, bottles, and cardboard.
- Acquired an electric Gem Car and equipped it with

an air tank, fire extinguisher, and flashing light.

- Installed a timed outlet to plug in the block heater for the airport's diesel powered jet-fuel truck. In cold weather, the block heater turns on one hour before we come to work.
- Installed occupancy sensors in the bathrooms.

Mr. Babione joined the Navy in 1968. He made

three deployments and served on nuclear submarines. In 2000, Mr. Babione retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer.

Mr. Babione's hobbies include backpacking, hiking, photography, and hotrods. His photographs are on several magazines, the walls in the airport lounge, as well as the Caltrans Aeronautics conference room.



Office of Airports

The State Division of Aeronautics assists in the development and preservation of a safe, efficient, dependable, and environmentally compatible air transportation system. There are six Aviation Safety Officers and an Office Chief assigned to the Office of Airports. Contact information and specific areas of responsibility are available on our website: www.dot.ca.gov/aeronautics/oairports.html

Approximately 70 percent of our duty time is devoted to on-site safety inspections and associated follow-up actions. These include: Public-use and special-use airports, hospital and public

safety agency heliports, proposed school and State building sites, and requested temporary helicopter landing sites that are within 1,000 feet of a kindergarten through 12-grade school.

About 15 percent of our time is devoted to liaison work with federal, state and local government staff; providing technical expertise to consultants, airport managers and private citizens; and participating in aviation safety seminars.

Generally 10 percent of our time is spent reviewing airport and heliport permit applications, and reviewing: Comprehensive Land-Use Plans, Airport Layout Plans, Master plans, funding proposals, and Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA) obstruction analysis documents.

The remaining 5 percent of our time goes toward training new personnel and completing special projects.

We do not get involved in pilot or aircraft certification issues. We generally refer flight procedures and air traffic control issues to our FAA counterparts.

All of our Safety Officers have at least a commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating, and all enjoy the camaraderie common among career aviators.

New Staff

Rosa Romero has eight years in State Service. During that time, she worked for the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the State Department of Finance. In September 2008, Caltrans offered her a career as the Division Secretary for the Division of Aeronautics (Aeronautics).

Heather Sanford is new to Aeronautics, since February 2009. She has been with the State for nine years and with Caltrans for almost four years. She is learning something new everyday and she loves her new position here in Aeronautics as the Division's Resource Manager.

Terry Farris was a local government planner and environmental consultant. She has a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Terry worked in regional transportation planning for 7 years before joining Aeronautics in April 2009. Her hobbies are swimming, gardening, and driveway parties.

Mike Smith was an Air Force aircraft mechanic for four years. He completed his Bachelors Degree in Aviation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In 2003, he started his civil service career in the State Treasurer's Office. Mike earned a CFI rating in helicopters at McClellan Airfield and is a fixed-wing Commercial Certificated Pilot. In October 2008, he started working for Aeronautics.

Asphalt Maintenance Guide

The Office of Technical Services Chief, Lee Provost, has been working with the Office of Aviation Planning Chief, Terry Barrie, on a Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation project. There are 3 parts to this research:

The first part of this project compares Caltrans highway asphalt concrete (AC) pavement specifications based on climate region, with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport runway pavement specifications. This comparison was sent to the

FAA in June 2008 and we are waiting for their approval.

The second part of this project is to create pavement maintenance guidelines for airport managers. This should help airport managers use Caltrans AC pavement specifications for small, non-commercial General Aviation Airports.

The next phase of this project will have an "off the shelf" AC pavement specification guide for airport managers to use the Caltrans specifications depending on the weight of aircraft using the runway.

The specifications will be for airplanes weighing less than 12,500 lbs, 12,500 lbs to 30,000 lbs, and 30,000 lbs to 60,000 lbs. The use of Caltrans hybrid asphalt specifications (Section 39) provides opportunities to obtain high quality, low cost, familiar hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavements for GA airports.



Asphalt Pavement Maintenance Guide For Airport Managers

is located on our website at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut>

The Good News

The Division of Aeronautics recently accepted an Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant in the amount of approximately \$900,000 to administer a contract that will survey obstructions to navigable airspace in the vicinity of ten airports throughout California. The results of the survey will allow the FAA to develop ten additional Lateral Precision w/ Vertical guidance (LPV) instrument approach procedures that will enhance the safety and capacity of pilots accessing the selected airports during instrument meteorological conditions.

LPV approaches allow pilots to operate aircraft equipped with the latest Global Positioning Satellite navigational technology to fly to the lowest approved altitudes to land at the airport during inclement weather. As a result, \$2.55 million in expenses (\$1.5 million equipment, \$1.0 million approach lights and land, and \$50 thousand annual maintenance) to install and maintain traditional ground based equipment and infrastructure will no longer be required.

Total taxpayer savings will exceed \$25 million to develop these "state of the art" instrument approaches versus using older technology. In addition, LPV approaches will be an integral part of the FAA's program to implement Next Generation technology throughout the nation.

Office Functions

Office of Airports

- Conduct public-use airport and hospital heliport safety and permit compliance inspections
- Issue and update airport and heliport permits
- Update Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) form 5010-1, Airport Master Record
- Assist airport management with State and Federal laws and regulations compliance
- Evaluate proposed school, community college and State building sites near airports
- Approve helicopter landing sites near schools (K-12)
- Update the California Aeronautical Chart

Office of Aviation

Planning

- Update the California Aviation System Plan and the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook
- Develop State aviation

- planning policies and comment on Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans and override letters
- Intermodal planning and regional aviation system planning
- Liaison for aviation-related research activities
- Collect and disseminate aviation statistics
- Review, comment and develop guidelines for Regional Transportation Plans (RTP), Overall Work Programs (OWP) and airport master plans
- Analyze and monitor Federal and State aviation legislation
- Analyze aviation's influence on State's economy

Office of Technical Services

- Provide engineering assistance (internal and external)
- Manage the Airport

- Pavement Management System (APMS) contract
- Develop the California Aviation System Plan, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) element
- Manage the Airport IQ System Manager (ASM) database contract
- Provide mapping services in AutoCAD Map 3D and school site safety maps
- Review and manage State and Federal contracts and grants

Special Services

- Review and comment on environmental documents for local development in the vicinity of an airport or on-airport projects
- Administer California airport noise regulations
- Administer operating and capital budgets
- Administrative and personnel activities support
- Manage capital improvement project

Do you have something noteworthy to suggest for future issues of the CalAERO Newsletter?

Send suggestions to: Rosa Romero rosa.romero@dot.ca.gov

Call: (916) 654-4848; or Fax: (916) 653-9531

Visit us on the web!!!

www.dot.ca.gov/areonautics

Aviation Conferences:

- **June 2-5, 2009, Los Angeles, CA**
Federal Aviation Administration, Western Pacific Region 5th Annual Airports Conference, Westin Hotel reservations call Katie Cox at: (301) 596-6031
- **September 16-18, 2009, South Lake Tahoe, CA**
Association of California Airports (ACA) Annual Conference, Inn by the Lake Hotel reservations call (800) 877-1466. Visit ACA website www.calairports.com

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